

United Nations

Daily Highlights

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FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- + UNPROFOR authorizes NATO air attacks on Bosnian Serb positions after forcible removal of weapons from collection point in Sarajevo exclusion zone; Force Commander warns that any further attempt to seize weapons will result in swift and appropriate action.
- + Security Council sends mission to Mozambique to discuss implementation of the General Peace Agreement; seeks full demobilization of forces so that elections can proceed as scheduled.
- + FAO report warns of massive famine in Horn of Africa; Angola, Burundi, Malawi, Tanzania and Uganda also face severe food shortages.
- + Preparatory Commission for International Seabed Authority discusses draft budget of \$3.2 million for administrative costs in start-up phase.

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The Commander of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), General Bertrand de Lapresle, today authorized the use of North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) air power after Bosnian Serb forces removed heavy weapons from a collection point in the Sarajevo exclusion zone. Attacks were authorized on a small number of fixed and isolated Bosnian Serb positions within the zone. UNPROFOR said it had sought to avoid collateral damage, and had limited the NATO response to a measured and proportionate action.

Early this morning, Bosnian Serb soldiers forcibly removed one tank, two armoured personnel carriers and a mobile anti-aircraft system from the Ilizda weapons collection point. Attempts by UNPROFOR to block the exit were unsuccessful, and a helicopter attempting to locate the vehicles was hit by small-arms fire and forced to return to base. UNPROFOR had previously denied Bosnian Serb demands for the release of weapons, warning that it would respond to any unilateral attempt to seize them with all available means. In view of those unambiguous statements by UNPROFOR, the removal of the weapons by the Bosnian Serbs was considered a deliberate act undertaken in full awareness of the consequences.

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General de Lapresle warned the Bosnian Serbs that any further attempt to remove heavy weapons from collection points in the Sarajevo exclusion zone would result in swift and appropriate action.

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The Security Council will dispatch a mission to Mozambique tomorrow to discuss with the parties there how to ensure full and timely implementation of the General Peace Agreement. In a note by its President, Yuliy Vorontsov (Russian Federation), dated 4 August, the Council said the five-day mission would be composed of the following members: Brazil, China, Czech Republic, Djibouti, New Zealand, Nigeria, Oman, the Russian Federation and the United States. The Council had said it would consider such a mission in a Presidential statement on 19 July.

The mission will convey the Council's concern at delays in implementing major aspects of the Peace Agreement to the Government of Mozambique and the Mozambique National Resistance Movement (RENAMO). It will underline the need to complete the demobilization of all forces by 15 August, as agreed by the parties, and the need to ensure that elections take place as scheduled, according to conditions set out in the Agreement. The mission will also stress the Council's intention to endorse the results provided the elections are free and fair, and remind the parties of their obligation to fully respect them.

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The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) today warned that a food crisis in the Horn of Africa could lead to a massive famine if international aid were not delivered urgently. The FAO's Special Report on the food situation in sub-Saharan Africa identified the countries of the region at risk as Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Sudan and Somalia.

FAO Director-General Jacques Diouf said the international community must not overlook the situation in the Horn of Africa while grappling with the Rwandan tragedy. He appealed for additional pledges and rapid delivery of food aid to avert a wide-spread famine. Solving Africa's food crisis in the long term would require focusing on staple crops and increasing productivity, he added.

The report called attention to problems elsewhere in sub-Saharan Africa. It said the situation in Burundi was critical, and was further threatened by ethnic tensions. Tanzania, Uganda, Angola and Malawi also faced severe food shortages.

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The Preparatory Commission for the International Seabed Authority and for the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea has begun considering the draft budget for the Authority, which will come into existence after the Convention enters into force on 16 November. Addressing the Commission

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yesterday, Kenya said failure to provide adequate financing would mean that the years of work on the Convention had been wasted.

The draft budget provides for administrative costs of \$3.2 million in the Authority's start-up phase -- from 16 November 1994 to 31 December 1995 -- with \$1.6 million for conference servicing and another \$1.6 million for the secretariat. Based on the Agreement on the deep seabed mining provisions of the Convention adopted recently by the General Assembly, those costs will be met through the United Nations budget.

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